GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1695
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
SHORTAGE OF RAIL WHEELS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing shortage of rail wheels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of money spent on the import of wheels every year in order to meet the demand;

(d) whether the Railways propose to set up new units to enhance the production of rail wheels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The total annual requirement of wheels of Indian Railways is approximately 2,40,000 nos. The manufacturing capacity of the two indigenous sources i.e. Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Steel Authority of India (Durgapur Steel Plant) put together is about 2,00,000 wheels. Wheels for high horse power locomotives and high speed coaches etc. for which requirements are small are also imported since economies of scale do not permit indigenous production. However, indigenous development of these wheels has been taken up and such production will be concurrent with the growth in volumes. The reasons for import of wheels are therefore shortage of capacity and requirement of special type of wheels. A statement showing the details of import of wheels during the year 2006-07 is attached.

(d) & (e) A new wheel manufacturing factory in Chhapra, Bihar, has also been sanctioned and the project is planned to be completed by January 2010. This shall supplement the production capacity available in the country from Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Durgapur Steel Plant. Indigenous development of special type of wheels has also been taken up and such production will be concurrent with the growth in volumes.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1695 BY SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 23.08.2007 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF RAIL WHEELS.

Type of Wheels	Quantity (2006-07)	Value (In Crore Rupees)
EMU Wheels	6500	18.90
Miscellaneous Wheels	1839	8.97
FIAT IR Bogie Wheels	2288	5.67
BOX 'N' Wheels	6500	23.80
Wheels for Metro	460	1.85
TOTAL	17,587	59.19